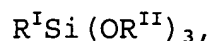


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a light-transmitting discharge vessel (10),  
the discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,  
the discharge vessel (10) comprising means for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13),  
at least a portion of the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a luminescent layer (17) of a luminescent material,  
at least a portion of the discharge vessel (10) facing away from the discharge space (13) being provided with a coating (3),  
characterized in that  
the coating (3) comprises a pigment which absorbs a part of the visible or UV light and/or the coating (3) comprises reflecting particles,  
the coating (3) comprises a network obtainable through conversion of an organically modified silane by means of a sol-gel process,

said organically modified silane being selected from the group formed by compounds of the following structural formula:



wherein  $R^I$  represents an organic group, preferably an alkyl group or an aryl group, and

wherein  $R^{II}$  represents an alkyl group.

2. (original) The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the  $R^I$  group comprises  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ .

3. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~2, characterized in that the  $R^{II}$  group comprises  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

4. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~2, characterized in that an average diameter  $d_p$  of the pigment is  $d_p \leq 100 \text{ nm}$ .

5. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~2, characterized in that the thickness  $t_c$  of the coating (3) is  $t_c \geq 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that silica particles having a diameter  $d \leq 50$  nm are incorporated in the network.

7. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment causes a change in the color temperature of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp.

8. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment is selected from the group formed by iron oxide, iron oxide doped with phosphorus, zinc-iron oxide, cobalt aluminate, neodymium oxide, bismuth vanadate, zirconium praseodymium silicate, and mixtures thereof.

9. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the pigment is selected from the group formed by anthraquinone, chromium phthalic yellow, perylene, quinacridone, Ni-isoindoline, quinacridone, Cu-phthalocyanine, Cu-phthalocyanine, dyaryl, chromium phthalic red, and mixtures thereof.

10. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the reflecting particles are selected from the group formed by aluminum, silver, aluminum oxide, titanium oxide, and barium sulfate.

11. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the size of the particles is in a range from 1 to 400 nm, preferably approximately 250 nm.